

(Summer of 1850.)

G. W. Alexander, an English gentleman just returned from a Seven months visit to the W. India islands, represents -

That y^r. ~~success~~ of good results of v. Emancipation are unquestioned and unquestionable in those Islands.

The improvement in the physical, social, & moral condition of v. people is very marked - while there is room for much more.

They are fast becoming landholders, buying their little patches, erecting snug & neat cottages. They hire themselves out at 6^d, 7½^d, to 1 shilling per day, [in Guiana ¼^d] - ^{almost no} - Saw ~~no~~ beggary & but little actual poverty among the emancipated - comfortable & sometimes rather handsome furniture, not a great deal of it. - 280 horses seen at one meeting belonging to emancip'd men. - Almshouses not required for them.

Products of island ^{for exports}, about ¾ of what they were in Slave-times. They now cultivate their own ^{plantation ground} ~~land~~, instead of laboring continually for exportation. - Females generally withdrawn from field-labour. - "Barbados a perfect garden" - style of agriculture ^{excellent} ~~improving~~ & further improvements are introducing.

Population increasing.

One-third of the children at school -
not the highest kind of instruction to be sure.

Improvement in moral most markedly
marriage has become general (though
not universal as yet). They contribute
large sums to sustain their Churches, and
baptisms.

A great deal of
spirited liquor is sold, mostly by small
dealers. Some totally abstain, but
temperance efforts are increasing; but
much is to be apprehended on this score.

There are no restrictions on the
purchase of land, and no political
barriers are raised against colored
men. They care less for this; being
mainly desirous to become owners of land.